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Who was Queen Elizabeth II and who is King Charles III?

By Isabel Mayer

Elizabeth II was the Queen of England, the child of George VI (1895-1952) and Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon (1900-2002). She was born on the 29th of April 1926, and Hitler called her the most dangerous woman in Europe.

Elizabeth II married Prince Philip on November 20th, 1947. However, they were both great grandchildren of Queen Victoria, and therefore related to one another. Their wedding was partly arranged to maintain the royal bloodline. Queen Elizabeth II died of old age at the Balmoral Castle in Scotland, on September 8th 2022, at the age of 96.

Elizabeth II was known to cultivate corgis. In the past, corgis were shepherd dogs (dogs that manage the sheep), because their short legs enabled them to run through the sheep easily. To make sure the sheep don't step on the corgis tail, their tails were cut 3-5 months after they were born. Cutting the tails of corgis developed into a law, which means that even now, corgis get their tails cut off. Her father, George VI, bought Elizabeth her first corgi when she was just 7 years old. It became her forever devotion. Whenever Elizabeth II went abroad, she would take her corgis with her. She loved these dogs so deeply that they could even be used to blackmail her.

Charles III, as the oldest male child of Elizabeth II, took her place after she died. Today, he is 74 years old, as he was born on September 14th 1948. As usually, after Elizabeth's death, he took the position of King immediately. He was historically the person who waited longest to become king or queen, and none of the other family members were interested in the position. He was also the first royal to get covid, and he got diagnosed with Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia. This illness isn't usually very serious, but for a man of his age, it could be a threat. It seems like a bad joke for someone who waited so long to become king, but support for him is very high.

A Great British Summer?

By Stella Krückeberg

There is no doubt that Great Britain has gone through quite a lot of changes this summer. In September 5th, Mary Elizabeth Truss, more commonly referred to as Liz Truss, won the election for Prime Minister against Rishi Sunak with 57.4% of the vote. The old Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, had resigned. A day later, Queen Elizabeth II officially approved of Truss as the Prime Minister,

as tradition required. Two days later, the queen surprisingly perished and her son was appointed King. Great Britain and the Commonwealth went into the traditional ten days of mourning, with thousands of people coming to see the queen's coffin (resulting in the 16 hour queue — see p. 2). Liz Truss went on to commence her "high growth, low tax" plan, but instead of helping Brits with dealing with the loss of natural gas from Russia, her plan sent the value of the pound falling and mortgages rising. She then removed her Chancellor of the Exchequer from power and replaced him with the former foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt. In the following days, he basically turned her entire plan around. Truss could stay Prime Minister until 2025, but after a polling showed that the population swayed in favor of the Labour Party, the Conservative Party (Truss's party) called to her to resign, which she did on October 20th. In all of history, her premiership was the shortest. Her successor is Rishi Sunak.





How much Power does the British Monarch actually have?

By Mia Farge

The king or queen is the head of the state, however, the British monarchy doesn't have all the power. They can bestow honors and also appoint the prime minister. The monarch can also advise but it is usually done in secret so they can change draft laws. Additionally, the monarch is also the head of the British Armed Forces.

But that's not all. The monarch also has the right to claim ownership of any unmarked mute swan swimming in open waters. They also own every single dolphin, whale and sturgeon from all around England and Wales. Finally, they don't need a passport to travel nor a driver's license.

The Story of the 16-hour queue

By Hedi Richert

Hundreds and thousands of people flocked to central London to join the queue to walk past their late queen's coffin. Thousands came, even though the government had issued many warnings to avoid joining the queue and had recommended staying at home to avoid standing in line for hours, sometimes even overnight. By mid-morning, there had been first warnings that the waiting time now stood up to 16 hours. Nevertheless, for 4 days tens of thousands of people bravely stood in line. However, many people struggled to stand in line this long and left after only a few hours.

According to eyewitnesses, Phillip Schofield & Holly Willoughby were seen skipping lines in the queue. While some people defended them, others went as far as to start a petition for them to lose their jobs. But was all that backlash deserved?

At the end of the day, if the accusations are true and the videos of them walking past the citizens are real, it is truly wrong and unfair to use your social status and money to skip the right way and take the fast one.

What were the conditions in the queue, and how did it affect the people who were standing in line? Luckily, there were eight first aid stations along the route, more than 1,000 volunteers and there were also several water stations along the route. But how did people go so long without food or water or toilet breaks? Of course, there were more than 500 portable toilets along the route of the queue. People in the queue also got different colored wristbands so that they could always leave the queue for one of the toilets or to get drinks or food and go back to their section. Local shops or museums stayed open extra-long for this very reason.

People were very aware of the long waitingtime, so what did they take?

There were strict limitations on what they could and could not take. An example of what was forbidden are not-clear water bottles, non-foldable chairs and any type of banners or posters.

Once inside the memorial hall, there were strict rules. People were asked to remain silent, while inside the hall people were also asked to dress appropriately. If not, they would be denied access to the memorial. While inside the hall, people were not allowed to use any kind of mobile phones cameras or devices.

At the end of the day, we might find it difficult to understand why they would put so much effort into celebrating someone not alive anymore. We also might not understand why people would go through all this just to say goodbye for the last time. Queen Elizabeth may not have had that much political power, but she won the hearts of the citizens and will not be forgotten.

Question of the Month: What is your favourite Bubble Tea Shop?

By Radu Falcoianu

We already asked the students about their favorite bubble tea shop last year. The winner last year was Pao Pao. This year we asked the students again, and these were the results.

From the 64 people who answered the survey, 30 students said that the Alley is their favorite bubble tea shop

- 1) The Alley: 47%
- 2) Pao Pao : 36%
- 3) Global Tea:8%
- 4) Comebuy (others) 3 votes
- 5) Bo Bo q (others) 2 votes

1. What is your favourite bubble tea shop?

[Weitere Details](#)

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The first official BCSNBC cartoon!

BCS: Berlin Cosmopolitan Struggles

A comic by Robin Polisen and Alma Schnitger



Music Recommendations

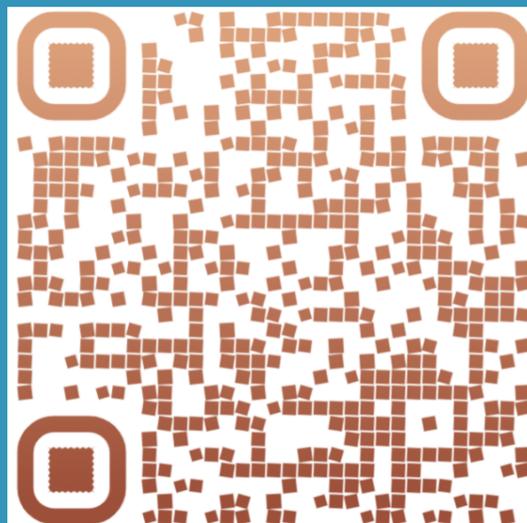
By Nina Levine and Olga Taborba

Every issue, we will introduce you to one or more playlists that you can listen to while studying, relaxing or doing whatever you want. We hope you enjoy!

Chill Playlist for teachers to play in class

By Nina Levine

Does your teacher not let you listen to music in class? Well, we have created a playlist that is good for teachers and students. It is chill, so you can still focus, but exciting, so you can listen to good music while you work. I hope you enjoy <3. To listen to the playlist scan the QR code:



Study Playlist

By Olga Taborba

Hey you! If you're in the classroom or at home studying, this is the playlist for you! I hope you enjoy it and have fun with it. To listen, either take this name and search it up on spotify (creator is „olga^^“) or scan the QR code if you can't find it.





The Cosmopolitan Film Corner presents... *The Crown* - The Royals as Entertainment

By Aeneas Toschek

Since the day it first premiered in 2016, Netflix's most expensive series to date, „The Crown“ has captivated audiences around the world. It's highly-anticipated fifth season, which chronicles the Queen's reign from 1991 to 1997, was released on the 9th of November. Although it was received with harsh criticism, mainly the historical accuracy, the story of the Windsor family, behind closed doors, their struggles, many nervous breakdowns and lives between luxury and public service brought to the screen still doesn't cease to amaze its fandom. Why is this? Why are the royals seemingly the optimal characters for a biographical drama? Furthermore, how has „The Crown“ actually served the Crown? Has it increased the popularity of the House of Windsor? Or has it damaged its reputation?

„The Crown“ was first conceived as a 2-hour film, by show-runner Peter Morgan, while he was working on his 2013 play „The Audience“. He had already written the screenplay for the 2006 biographical picture „The Queen“ (played by Helen Mirren to much critical acclaim) and for the award-winning historical film „Frost/Nixon“, which makes him a specialist for films with fact-based background. Originally, „The Crown“ was to showcase the queen's audiences with the prime ministers (just like „The Audience“), but as he researched further and further into the history of the Queen's reign, it was clear it was going to be a much bigger project and he began writing.

Next, seeking producers, Morgan joined forces with Sony Pictures Television as well as Left Bank Pictures, whom he had worked together with on „The Queen“ and many other projects. Together, they visualised what later became the six-season narrative arc with a new cast every two seasons. A few years later, the very first season of the Crown was released on the streaming-giant Netflix's platform to „universal acclaim“ (Metacritic). Rotten Tomatoes announced the first seasons 88% while the Guardian wrote that, „This first series, about good old British phlegm from first to last, is the service's crowning achievement so far“. It was clear that „The Crown“ was a major success and, over the years, Netflix ordered a total of five additional seasons.

Of all the famous families in the world, the British royals are by far the perfect family for a big six-season Netflix saga. Why? Well, think of any other famous family. Think of one of the countless monarchies across Europe, in the Netherlands, Denmark or Sweden. Would you like to watch them regularly? Here's a question! Would you like to watch a six-season fictionalisation chronicling the life of the Kennedys? Probably not. The British royals, on the other hand, and a sixty-episode series are a match made in heaven. This is because they have always been televised. From the day the coronation of the Queen was broadcast in the 1950s. Since then, their old-fashioned rituals, for example, the waving from the balcony, the carriage-driving, especially the huge, expensive weddings have been watched by millions, around the world.

We all know them. They are particularly striking to us because of their aesthetics. The castles, outfits, carriages and scandals have left a memorable image in our minds. So, the images are already in the heads of the viewers. Now, show-runner Peter Morgan needs to stuff it with some tense drama and detail and gather actors that look like the family (Not too similar though... otherwise there won't be a discussion about it).

Fast forward to 2022, the fifth season seems to have disappointed many people. Imelda Staunton's queen is dull, probably coming closest to the actual monarch. Dominic West is too charismatic to play a sometimes-hated character like Prince Charles while Jonathan Pryce is too old-looking to be Prince Phillip. Lesley Manville is too thin to play Princess Margaret in older age and I could go on. Do you see what I'm doing? I'm comparing The Crown to the images in my head, constantly switching back and forth. It's the most exciting thing about it. Seeing something on screen that has actually happened. The comparing is like a sport, which many people practice. And that's the thing, part of the fun. No matter how bad the Crown really is, as long as people practice this "sport", comparing and comparing, engaging in discussions about the accuracy, the differences in the characters gestures, their hairline, the width of their faces and facial expressions as opposed to the real deal, „The Crown“ will not cease to be successful. It is a monument to a family that has become part of popular culture.

Now, before I let you go, fun fact, did you know that the Queen has actually watched the first season of the series? Of course she didn't leave a comment below, still keeping track of her most important motto „Never complain, never explain“ (while her husband, Prince Philip, actually considered suing Netflix for invading the family's privacy).

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FIFA WORLD CUP

Sollte man die WM in Katar boykottieren?

By Alessio, Anastasia, Annea, Arthur, Arved, Kurt, Matteo, Mia K., Mia R., Mila, Tonio (Ethics 10b Class)

„Ein Menschenbild aus einem anderen Jahrtausend“, sagte die Tagesschau bereits zu der Weltmeisterschaft in Katar. Den Organisatoren der Weltmeisterschaft wird unter vielem anderem vor allem Bestechlichkeit vorgeworfen, denn bei dem FIFA-Rat, der aus 37 Mitgliedern besteht, ist es fragwürdig, woher denn jetzt die Stimmen kamen. Bei dem Bau der neuen Stadien für die Weltmeisterschaft sind außerdem viele Menschen umgekommen. „Mit dem ersten Pfiff wird man nicht mehr nur über all die Probleme sprechen, sondern über den Sport.“, sagte Sepp Blatter, der ehemalige Präsident des Welt-Fußballs-Verbands FIFA. So sehen das auch andere, die gegen das Boykottieren der WM sind. Daher stellt sich die Frage, ob man die Weltmeisterschaft boykottieren soll, indem man sie sich nicht anschaut und auch nicht hinfährt.

Man sollte die WM in Katar nicht boykottieren

Ein Argument was dafür spricht, dass man die WM nicht boykottieren sollte, ist erstens, dass sowohl die Spiele als auch die Ausstrahlungsrechte, schon verkauft worden sind. Außerdem ist Fußball nicht Politik und jedes Land und jeder Spieler hätte eine Chance weniger auf den WM-Sieg. Hinzufügend lässt sich sagen, dass ein Fernseher-Boykott sowieso keine Auswirkung haben würde, da, wie bereits erwähnt, die Übertragungsrechte eh schon verkauft worden sind. Ein weiteres Argument ist, dass es die erste WM in einem arabischen Land ist.

Das ist ein großer Meilenstein für arabische Länder und wird in einigen arabischen Ländern ausgiebig gefeiert. Außerdem sagen einige Fußballspieler, man solle diese WM benutzen, um auf die existierenden Probleme in Katar aufmerksam zu machen, denn jetzt ist es zu spät, um sie zu boykottieren, es wäre sinnlos. Die Arbeiter sind bereits durch harte Arbeit gestorben, der Boykott der WM würde sie nicht wieder zum Leben erwecken.

Man soll die WM in Katar boykottieren

Todesfälle der Arbeiter des Stadiums in Katar? Wegen des Umganges mit den Gastarbeitern werden WM-Ausrichter kritisiert, doch das ist noch nicht alles. Damit Katar die Weltmeisterschaft ausrichten durfte, wurden viele Offizielle mit mehreren Millionen von Euro bestochen. Katar ist außerdem keine Fußballnation und es gibt in dem Land keine Fußballkultur. Das wohl größte Argument für ein Boykott sind die verstoßenen Menschenrechte. Mittlerweile sind rund 6500 Gastarbeiter bei den Stadionarbeiten ums Leben gekommen. Das liegt daran, dass sie unmenschlich behandelt werden und nur unter extremen Bedingungen arbeiten. Bei Temperaturen, die zwischen 35 und 50 Grad schweigen, werden die Arbeiter in engen Transporten jeden Tag von Ort zu Ort geschleift. Die Umgebung ist dreckig und unhygienisch. Die Arbeiter haben keine andere Wahl und sind von ihren Arbeitgebern sehr abhängig. Außerdem gab es viel sexuellen Missbrauch, Bevormundung und Ausbeutung bei Putzfrauen im Stadium.

Dazu kommt noch, dass Frauen in Katar wenige Rechte haben, wodurch sie sexuellen Missbrauch nicht einmal melden können, ohne selbst eine Strafe zu erleiden. Andere, die hingegen gar keine Rechte haben, sind die Mitglieder der LGBTQ+. Sie sind unerwünscht und werden in Katar schwer bestraft; der katarische WM-Botschafter Salman nennt Homosexualität einen „geistigen Schaden“.

Fazit

Letztendlich gibt es zwei Sichtweisen, jedoch entschied sich die Mehrheit der Klasse dafür, dass es moralisch korrekt ist, die WM in Katar zu boykottieren. Das bedeutet zwar viele Konsequenzen für die meisten Katarer sowie die Einkommen, welche verloren gehen und die Verluste, unter welchen die Investoren leiden. Dennoch glauben wir, dass es wichtiger ist, die schlechten Arbeits- und Lebensbedingungen für die Gastarbeiter in Katar und die schlechte Behandlung der Frauen und Homosexuellen nicht zu unterstützen.

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